

souls, and many a time during persecution and Arian troubles he appeared suddenly in the streets of Alexandria to the conversion of thousands. till at the ripe age of 105 he went to his reward. Early in the fourth century lived Gregory, a semi-pagan, and his wife Nonna, natives of Cappadocia, in Asia Minor. Nonna, a devoted Christian, was ever singing from Psalm cxxii, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go unto the house of the Lord." He rebuked her, but she would not be silent, and one night he awoke, having dreamed that in a transport of joy he had been singing his wife's favorite words. It was his conversion. He became bishop or minister of Nazianzus, and was succeeded in that office by his more famous son and namesake, Gregory Nazianzen.

Augustine's case is well known from his confessions. Ambrose of Milan had told his mother Monica that the child of so many prayers could not be lost, but the philosophical and dissipated young heathen was obdurate. One day, he and his friend Alypius disputed in a little garden wherein was a summer-house. "When will you seek God?" the Spirit seemed to ask his conscience, which answered with the ravens "Cras ! cras !" which means "to-morrow." Then, either as from angels or from children at play, came the words "Tolle, lege !" or lift and read !" On the table in the summer-house, he found a volume of the Scriptures, open at Romans xiii., 13, "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ," and conversion came to his life. Very different from Augustine was his Syrian contemporary, the pillar saint, called Simeon Stylites. A young shepherd of Antioch, the words of Luke vi., 21-25, "Blessed are ye that hunger now," made such an impression upon him, that for thirty-seven years, he lived on the top of a pillar forty cubits high, never sleeping, eating but once a week, and preaching repentance incessantly to the multitudes that came to see and hear him. That his construction of the Word was wrong cannot be doubted, but, construed rightly or wrongly, that Word was a power.

The patristic period furnishes us with two deceitful handlings